

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~systems administration policy enforcement~~  
method for autonomically managing administration of interdependent  
components in a computing network, the method comprising the steps of:  
~~responsive to~~ receiving a request to perform an administrative task  
directed to a ~~resource~~ component within ~~[[a]]~~ the computing network~~[[.]]~~;  
retrieving an administration policy comprising a set of rules ~~for~~  
governing defining requisite state of related interdependent components and  
environment required to perform said administrative task~~[[.]]~~;  
further retrieving state data for the related interdependent components  
and environment; ~~for said resource and~~  
applying said retrieved policy to said retrieved state data; and,  
permitting said administrative task only if said ~~further~~ retrieved state data  
satisfies said set of rules in said retrieved policy.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
providing a user interface for establishing said set of rules for said  
administration policy; and,

storing said administration policy for subsequent retrieval in said  
retrieving step.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the components in the computing network include application components, software resources, and hardware resources, and the environment includes system resources ~~said step of further retrieving said state data, comprises retrieving state data both for said resource and also for other related resources in said computing network.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

disallowing said administrative task if said further retrieved state data fails to satisfy said set of rules in said retrieved policy;

identifying a related ~~resource~~ component having a related ~~resource~~ component state giving rise to said state data for said ~~resource~~ component failing to satisfy said set of rules in said retrieved policy;

requesting remediation of said related ~~resource~~ component state so that said related ~~resource~~ component state satisfies said set of rules in said retrieved policy; and,

further permitting said administrative task subsequent to a remediation of said related ~~resource~~ component state.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said steps of disallowing, identifying, requesting and further permitting are performed autonomically.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said steps of disallowing, identifying, requesting and further permitting are performed recursively for each related ~~resource~~ component whose state gives rise to a failure of said ~~resource~~ component to satisfy said retrieved policy.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of inserting an exit routine in an administration console of said ~~resource~~ component, said exit routine having a configuration for forwarding requests to administer said ~~resource~~ component to a policy evaluation component programmed to perform said steps of retrieving, further retrieving, applying and permitting.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for autonomically managing administration of interdependent components in a computing network,  
~~administration policy enforcement system~~ comprising:

a processor configured to

receive a request to perform an administrative task directed to a component within the computing network;

retrieving an administration policy comprising a set of rules defining requisite state of related interdependent components and environment required to perform said administrative task;

further retrieving state data for the related interdependent components and environment;

applying said retrieved policy to said retrieved state data; and,

permitting said administrative task only if said retrieved state data satisfies said set of rules in said retrieved policy

~~an administration policy comprising a set of rules for permitting and disallowing administration of resources in a system hosting a plurality of interdependent resources;~~

~~a policy evaluation component configured to retrieve resource state data and determine whether said retrieved resource state data satisfies said set of rules in said administration policy; and,~~

~~an exit routine coupled to a resource in said network, said exit routine having logic for forwarding requests to administer said resource to said policy evaluation component.~~

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for autonomically managing administration of interdependent components in a computing network enforcing a systems administration policy, said computer program comprising a routine set of instructions for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

~~responsive to~~ receiving a request to perform an administrative task directed to a resource component within ~~[[a]]~~ the computing network~~[[.]]~~;

~~retrieving an administration policy comprising a set of rules for governing~~ defining requisite state of related interdependent components and environment required to perform said administrative task~~[[.]]~~;

further retrieving state data for the related interdependent components  
and environment; ~~for said resource and~~  
applying said retrieved policy to said retrieved state data; and,  
permitting said administrative task only if said ~~further~~ retrieved state data  
satisfies said set of rules in said retrieved policy.

12. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 11, further comprising  
the steps of:

providing a user interface for establishing said set of rules for said  
administration policy; and,  
storing said administration policy for subsequent retrieval in said  
retrieving step.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein  
the components in the computing network include application components,  
software resources, and hardware resources, and the environment includes  
system resources ~~said step of further retrieving said state data, comprises~~

~~retrieving state data both for said resource and also for other related resources in said computing network.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

disallowing said administrative task if said further retrieved state data fails to satisfy said set of rules in said retrieved policy;

identifying a related ~~resource~~ component having a related ~~resource~~ component state giving rise to said state data for said ~~resource~~ component failing to satisfy said set of rules in said retrieved policy;

requesting remediation of said related ~~resource~~ component state so that said related ~~resource~~ component state satisfies said set of rules in said retrieved policy; and,

further permitting said administrative task subsequent to a remediation of said related ~~resource~~ component state.

16. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 15, wherein said steps of disallowing, identifying, requesting and further permitting are performed autonomically.

17. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 15, wherein said steps of disallowing, identifying, requesting and further permitting are performed recursively for each related ~~resource~~ component whose state gives rise to a failure of said ~~resource~~ component to satisfy said retrieved policy.

18. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 11, further comprising the step of inserting an exit routine in an administration console of said ~~resource~~ component, said exit routine having a configuration for forwarding requests to administer said ~~resource~~ component to a policy evaluation component programmed to perform said steps of retrieving, further retrieving, applying and permitting.